

# Holgate Taxpayers' Association Spring Membership Meeting Minutes

**Bond's Park, June 5, 2021**

**TRUSTEE ATTENDEES:** Frank Benintendo, Denise Brand, Bill Cannon, Yanni Kaloudis, Frank Lowry, Dan Macone, Rand Pearsall, Ted Stiles, Bob White

**ABSENT:** Marianne Hurley, Bill Hutson

Meeting Called to order 10:16 AM Rand Pearsall who thanked all members for attending. Rand introduced Trustees and Board members.

## **TREASURER'S BUDGET REPORT**

- Bill Cannon reviewed the attached two handouts which display the 2021 Budget. The key items are: 1- Greenhead Traps (maintaining, rebuilding and baiting); 2- Dune Plantings.
- There is also approximately a \$20,000 reserve to use for expenses, resulting from past year's funds not being expended as budgeted.
- Dan Macone made a motion to approve the 2021 Budget, the motion was seconded by Frank Benintendo and unanimously passed.

## **GUEST SPEAKER COMMISSIONER RALPH BAYARD**

Rand Pearsall introduced Commissioner Ralph Bayard for a question-and-answer session. The following are notes on the subjects covered, some subjects were covered from notes brought by Commissioner Bayard and some are answers to questions from members.

- **Plans for Bond's Park** - While there has been much speculation about LBT's plan for Bond's Park property, Commissioner Bayard emphasized there is no plan for changing the park. There are many items that need to be addressed before a formal plan is considered including parking requirements, size of property, safely maintaining foot traffic walkways, maintaining existing use of park, possibly increased traffic on residential streets. He suggested the HTA members work with Rand to develop a communication survey that will determine what the community prefers.
- **Park Walkway** - That goes thru and over vegetation from Joan Rd. has deteriorated, become unsafe and will be replaced with a temporary ground level walk. The walk will be torn down this summer and a bridge walkway will be rebuilt in the fall. HTA will follow-up with LBT and advise members
- **Proposed Entrance to Palottas' Property** - From Joan Road which would cut thru the vegetation area between Palottas' lot and Joan Road. There was discussion and many members near this proposed entrance opposed the project as it would be detrimental and destructive to extensive vegetation now there which helps control blowing sand.

- **Pickle Ball Court** - Is a recreation that has been requested by some members. This would need to be a separate court area. According to LBT, the tennis court will not be modified. Key consideration is where the property would be modified to add this court as well as parking.
- **Playground Equipment** - There is one piece of equipment that is missing a structural piece which will be installed as soon as received.
- **Survey of Members** - Is planned to establish priorities for improving use of the park and the results of survey will be discussed with Commissioner Bayard. Rand stated HTA will continue to contribute to plans for Bonds Park by working with LBT.
- **Beach Replenishment** - Has continued as beach conditions have worsened as a result of recent northeasters. Commissioner Bayard stated Mayor Mancini is extremely concerned about beach conditions of the southern beaches. LBT has a person check the conditions of the Holgate beach entrances and beaches daily. Bulldozers are still kept at the southern beaches to help replenish beaches and entrances to keep them safe and usable.
- **Green Acres and Bay Beaches** – Several HTA members commented Green Acres money was used years ago to maintain the vegetation areas in a natural state near bay beaches. Members agreed the goal is to work on the new park walkway with minimal damage to vegetation and keep the entire area in a natural condition.
- **Tax Rate** – Based on recent revaluations of property there has been a new tax rate 1.5% reduction. The impact of county and school taxes are not known at this time. Changes in funding the mainland schools are also being considered by LBT.
- **Clam Cove** - LBT confirms they continue to favor protection of the natural vegetation on this preserved piece of Long Beach Township property in Holgate.
- **Boulevard Paving** – LBT working with Ocean County to get completed, work will continue this fall. Holgate streets to be paved are Julia and Magnolia.
- **Windmill Farms** - LBT is not in favor of this project. Best approach is to offer basic information so people really understand what the project does for the state and local government and Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind (ASOW). Windmills are a complicated and controversial subject. HTA will continue to make information available to members and will consider a public forum with ASOW and possibly other organizations.
- **Water Meters** – LBT didn't want to support this activity but State of New Jersey mandated water meters be installed. Effective January 1, 2022 residences will be billed based on a basic fee and water meter readings, all meters will be read remotely.

- **LBT Schools** – LBT pays 80% of school cost and only supplies 20% of children that attend mainland schools. LBT opinion is to leave both LBT elementary schools open due to the cost identified with updating the EJ school. The Ship Bottom school could be difficult to sell as it has a public use stipulation so it would not be an effective source of funds for this updating. This topic will continue to be a major issue for all Townships on LBI.

In closing the Q and A program at 11:15, Rand Pearsall again thanked Ralph Bayard for giving his time to the HTA meeting and stated how important it is for the HTA to meet with LBT personnel to talk about issues. Rand reminded HTA members that LBT Commissioners hold monthly meetings that are open to the public. Specific plans or changes are read as ordinances and discussed at one meeting. At the next, 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting the ordinance is read again and can be passed into law.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **BY-LAWS**

- Frank Benintendo briefly summarized the By-Laws changes. He advised there would be a link sent to the proposed By-Laws via email. Then we would need to create an electronic approval ballot which would require voting on the By-Laws to be completed no later than July 11 so we are 60 days before the election.
- The following additions have been made to the By-Laws.
- Proposed Operating Policies have been approved to be added to the By-Laws.
- A Succession Plan if the President becomes unable to preform duties as the HTA President has been created and will be added to the By-Laws.
- Requirements for becoming a trustee.
- An Executive Committee has been established that will be responsible for annual planning, long-term strategy, trustee performance evaluation and general governance.

### **DUNE PLANTING**

- Denise Brand thanked all HTA members that helped plant dune entrances and dunes May 22. The project was very successful.
- The following entrances were planted May 22, Harding, Pershing, Carolina, Inlet, Chatham, Holgate, Scott, Tebco and Susan.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

- Ted Stiles advised placing Greenhead fly traps in Holgate started in 1986, the project was successful and has grown nicely with HTA support.
- Ted then presented a sample of a new design he has designed and built. The fly trap is made of material that will last longer, is more secure when installed, larger and is more attractive.
- He is also working on alternate designs and will have an example to review at the Fall meeting.

## GOVERNMENT RELATIIONS

- **Be Bright Campaign** – Dan Macone stated HTA is one of the sponsors of the “Be Bright” campaign organized by the Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the campaign is to provide informational postcards and lighted wristbands to pedestrians and bicyclists to promote increased visibility for safety. The LBI Chamber of Commerce has purchased 920 wristband lights to be distributed to the sponsors.
- **Holgate Clean-up** - Is scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>. The clean-up is divided into four areas, two are north end and two are south end, more information will be sent as to locations and start time. Please come out and join your neighbors and friends.
- **Upgrade “Welcome to Holgate” sign lighting** - We have received quotes to purchase the necessary equipment to upgrade the lighting on the “Welcome to Holgate” sign.
- **Police Department Mobile sign** – At the request of HTA, LBT agreed to locate one of the Police Departments mobile signs at the entrance to Holgate. The sign reminds residents and visitors the proper direction when riding a bike or when walking or jogging.
- **Holiday Lights** – HTA has purchased two additional Holiday ornaments, a snowflake and an anchor. The total is now 13.

## MEMBERSHIP

- Bill Cannon reported 423 current members before the meeting, probably increasing to 430 after the meeting. This is a new high for membership at this time of year.
- Bill plans to do another mailing before the September General Membership meeting.
- There are no community events scheduled for this Summer but there will be at least one Fall event.
- Denise Brand reviewed and distributed special packets of information she had prepared with many very useful instructions about Holgate and safety instructions.

## NOMINATING

- The following Trustees and Trustee Officers have confirmed they will run for another two-year term 2021 – 2023: Trustees Frank Benintendo, Denise Brand, Bill Hutson and Ted Stiles; Officers Bill Cannon Treasurer and Yanni Kaloudis Corresponding Secretary.
- Trustees Marianne Hurley and Frank Lowry resigned, but will complete their term thru September 11. Eileen Bowker previously resigned.
- The Nominating Committee is currently reviewing candidates for the three open Trustee positions. Members who are interested in becoming a trustee are encouraged to join one of the HTA committees to learn more about the organization.
- Voting for the slate of Trustee candidates will be electronically prior to the September 11 General Membership meeting with results announced at the meeting.
- Trustees will vote on the Officers slate at the November 7, Trustee’s meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **BECOMING A TRUSTEE**

- The following information is effective, July 11 or as soon as By-Laws are approved. There will be a newsletter announcement confirming approval.
- Trustees are elected from a slate of candidates selected by the Nominating Committee prior to the September Membership Meeting with results announced at the meeting.
- Any HTA member can be a candidate for a two-year term if they have been a property owner or a year around renter for the last two years. The member must submit a written statement on why they would like to be considered as a candidate and provide a brief bio with any type of community work.
- Nominations may also be made by an HTA member providing a nominating petition with 10 HTA member signatures.
- Both documents to become a candidate for Trustee must be received 30 days prior to the election and sent to the current President.

### **UPCOMING HTA EVENTS**

- Spring Cleanup June 12
- Fall General Membership meeting and BBQ September 11, 4-6 PM. Location TBD

### **NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING DATE**

- Tuesday, August 24, 7:00 – 8:30 PM Zoom

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Macone, seconded by Bill Cannon and unanimously passed at 11:40 AM.



